The total investment in the above joint ventures is estimated at approximately Rs. 8017 crores. There has been no proposal for joint venture in other segments of the automobile industry in the recent past.

(e) Manufacture of automotive vehicles including car has been delicensed under the New Industrial Policy. Most indigenous manufacturers of cars have entered into joint ventures with foreign companies.

Dog Squads in defence forces

2625. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Dog Squads deployed in the Defence forces;

(b) the areas they are mostly used in; and

(c) the amount spent in training, food and other expenses like medicines of upkeep?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND DEPTT. OF DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 12 Dog Units comprising 10 Units of 24 Dogs each and two Units of 12 Dogs each are deployed in Army.

(b) The Army Dog Units are used in Counter Insurgency, mine detection, avalanche rescue operation, guarding vital installations, tracking, infantry patrolling etc.

(c) The recurring cost of maintenance a Dog Unit (of 24 Dogs) is about Rs. 27 lakh per annum.

Power Plants on Garbage by NRI

2626. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any NRI business man has proposed to set up power plants based on garbage in some selected cities in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on this proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Some NRIs have shown interest to set up power plants based on Garbage in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. However, detailed project proposals have not been received so far. They are in the process of finalising sites and tie-ups with the concerned agencies.

Un-manned level crossings

2627. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of un-manned level crossings still existing in the country;

(b) whether any Railway accidents took place at the un-manned level crossings during this year; and

(c) by when the above un-manned level crossings are expected to be converted to manned level crossings equipped with the necessary telecommunication facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) 21267.

(b) 31 accidents took place at un-manned Level Crossings during this year.

(c) Manning of unmanned level crossings, except identified vulnerable ones, is taken up at the request of State Govts. and at their cost. Manning can, therefore, be done as and when the State Govts. make proposals, placing necessary funds with the Railways.

Amendment of NHB Act

2628. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank Act is proposed to be amended to provide for speedy foreclosure of mortgages, to promote housing finance market by ensuring adequate security to housing finance institutions for housing loans, with the objective of creating additional house dwelling units with proper facilities;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the number of dwelling units in urban and rural areas required to provide adequate housing facility to India's homeless population as per Census-1991 and the Action plan to provide adequate housing facilities to this population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPTT. OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION) (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) There is no decision of Government in this regard.

(c) Based on 1991 Census data, the N.B.O. has estimated housing requirement for the houseless to be 3.1 lakhs in rural and 2.4 lakhs in urban areas.

Housing being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to formulate and implement housing schemes for various target groups. These schemes are financed by State budgetary resources and or institutional finance. HUDCO provides loans to housing agencies at low interest rates for construction of dwelling units for EWS/LIG. In order to supplement the State Government's efforts to provide housing to the people below the poverty line in urban and rural areas, Central Government have launched a number of Centrally sponsored schemes envisaging grant of Central subsidy/HUDCO loans at concessional terms. These include:—

(1) Indira Awas Yojana—a subsidised Housing Scheme for the rural poor;

(2) Shelter upgradation under Nehru Rozgar Yojana aiming at grant of subsidy and HUDCO loan for upgradation of dwelling units for urban poor;

(3) Night shelter and sanitation facility for urban footpath dwellers;

(4) Subsidised rural housing schemes envisaging Central subsidy to State Governments to augment their resources for rural housing;

(5) A subsidy at 25% of the unit/ renovation/repair cost under a shelter upgradation component of the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Powerty Eradication Programme.

Low Cost Preservation of Horticulture Produce

2629. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is being done in the area of Science and Technology for low cost preservation of Horticulture Produce;

(b) is the product commercially available;

(c) whether this is popular; and

(d) what is being done to boost research in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE & MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Science &